



To His Excellency

The Govr. of New Jersey.

Trenton.

J. J.
Chas. Boni
Trenton: Florida

THE SHELL POINT MEETING.

In pursuance of public notice, a very large meeting of the citizens of Shell Point took place on the 19th inst. to express themselves upon the question which has created such universal excitement throughout the slave holding States.

On motion of Arthur Macon, N. W. Walker, Esq. was appointed Chairman, and Wm. C. Campbell and John Gavin, Secretaries.—The object of the meeting having been explained by the chairman, Thomas J. Green addressed the assembly at length, in which he reviewed the origin, rise and progress of the abolition question—its destructive influence upon the social feelings and body politic of the whole community—its unavoidable influence upon the legislation of Congress, and its deleterious effect upon the unity of the States.—He concluded his address in opposition to the doctrines of the Abolitionists of the United States and the British Parliament, by citing many plain and naked facts, in themselves more eloquent and more convincing to the understanding, than all the high wrought figures which Mr. O'Connell ever conceived.—In which he showed the glaring difference between Southern slavery and Northern liberty; the former consist in ample food and raiment, with the ten and eleven hours servitude—*bacon and Indian bread*: the latter in the *penny loaf and small beer arrangement*, with the fourteen hours servitude. "Is there," said Mr. G. "a Philanthropist living, who can for one moment reflect with complacency & quietude upon the consequent and inevitable destiny of those twelve thousand 12 and 14 years old damsels, who greeted the arrival of our present distinguished Chief Magistrate at Lowell, with songs of joy and innocence, when he knows if those untouched innocent creatures were in the South and West of this Republic, they would become the enviable and respected heads of five thousand respectable families? Let me not insult the genius of philanthropy by invoking her sympathy in behalf of the thousand infant white paupers recently turned loose upon the commons of Patterson, because human endurance was not equal to the excations of their avaricious masters. I appeal to all present—to the history of the immense slave holding population of these States, for a living instance who could witness unmoved, and unprovided for such infant sufferance.—And yet, under total neglect of their own home, these self-styled Philanthropists, at the North, presume to invade our system—they would have you believe the milk of human kindness never flowed in Southern veins, and that it is only to be found in the *free* school system and *ha-penny* calculations of the North." He concluded by offering to the consideration of the assembly the following Preamble and Resolutions, which were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, there is at present a simultaneous and universal excitement throughout the slave holding portion of these States and Territories. And whereas, in numerous meetings held therein, a general expression of public feeling upon the subject of Slavery is recommended; Therefore, we, the people of Shell Point, in the Territory of Florida, in meeting assembled, feeling most sensibly the importance of the occasion, and having met under the most solemn, determined, and responsible feelings of our nature, do publish to all concerned and the world, our open, honest, and undisguised sentiments. Therefore—

Resolved, That the only earthly power which we can or ought to recognise in interfering upon this subject, is, the people of the slave States and Territories, in convention assembled; And so important is the question, that in a slave State or Territory when a lean majority of the people may be in favor of emancipation and equal privileges; even then we must and ought to have a decent forbearance towards the feelings of the minority, for the question can never be otherwise than revolutionary.

Resolved, That the history of the whole world, plainly show the relation between master and slave has been mainly influenced by the sheerest principles of interest—that we do not admit that feelings of human philanthropy caused the people of the non slave holding States of this Union to substitute SERVANTS for their SLAVES—that it was not until the in-

terest of the money which the Southern man paid the Northern man for his slave, was worth more than the services of that slave, did he substitute in his stead the *servant*.

Resolved, That whatever may be the ultimate issue of this question, we are not at present prepared to admit from any settled and honest conviction, that slavery as it exists in these States is an evil—that the only moral obligation which the slave holding people of these States owe either to man or God, is, *not to make worse the condition of their slave*.—Then we call upon all sensible men of all nations, to compare the condition of our slaves with their native condition.

Resolved, That we have ever looked upon the agitation of this question with the most intense anxiety; not so much on account of any fear we entertain from servile war at home—but on account of its excitability, which must and ought from its very nature, unite the whole South as one man.

Resolved, That we, of all parties, as much as we respect and adore the union of these States, do look upon any interference upon the subject of our slave rights, by either the people of the non slave holding States, or the Congress of the United States, as CONSEQUENTLY, DIRECTLY and UNAVOIDABLY, involving the existence of this Union.

Resolved, That feeling that sentiment which we believe to be one & undivided in the whole slave portion of this country, we do now *formally and solemnly*, protest against any interference by the Congress of the United States upon this subject, either in the Territories or District of Columbia, and that we will view the agitation of this question in said district as the opening scene to that fearful political drama now in rehearsal.

Resolved, That we ever look upon this as the *great Splitting question* among the States; that most political questions are subordinate, and many others owe their existence to it; all of which has ever appeared to us a political absurdity. for, why should this interest create opposition from any quarter, when it is known the products of the "slave labor" balances the trade of the whole Republic, and squares accounts with all other nations.

Resolved, That such is the revolutionary tendency of this question, we cordially approve the conduct of the people of Mississippi, Nashville, Tennessee, and elsewhere, of their treatment in their primary character of these infamous amalgamationists, and believe this to be the true and proper manner to meet the question.

Resolved, That every citizen of Shell Point, be constituted a committee of Vigilance, Correspondence and Safety, and that they take every necessary step to enforce the true spirit of our laws upon the subject of the *migration or sojourning* of free persons of color in our Territory.

Resolved, That we disapprove the passage of any law by our Legislature, making it an indictable case in an Abolitionist to circulate incendiary books or papers among our slaves; for we believe when the Legislature formally dignifies this question by the passage of a law subjecting it to the operations of a Grand Jury, then it is fairly begged.

Resolved, That when any case may arise within our action, we will feel free to act in that summary and efficient way, according to the first great dictates which the God of nature has implanted in the bosoms of men.

Resolved, That the people of the slave States feel entire capability in meeting this question in any possible shape it may arise, without supplicating assistance from our northern friends.

Resolved, That the gratuitous & manly spirit of the Resolutions published at the "Young Men's Meeting" in Philadelphia, deserves our warmest gratitude.

Resolved, That in general, we respectfully tender to our Northern friends, our thanks for their very temperate resolutions upon the subject of "immediate emancipation;" at the same time we must in candor say, we will believe much stronger in the genuineness of their sympathy when they shall refuse for their great city, which draws her hundred millions per annum upon Southern industry, to remain the laboratory of our poison.

Resolved, That whereas the circulation, or

the *aiding or abetting* the circulation of incendiary abolition papers is a capital offence in the State of Louisiana—therefore, we recommend to the Governor of said State to demand of the Governor of New York, such conspicuous person or persons as are known to be foremost in this work of crime and sedition, so that the question may be fairly tried as to their liability under the law, as accessories before the fact. Nothing is clearer than that *sympathy*, and such other person or persons of this society, who may have been within the limits of said State during such circulation, is liable under the Constitution of the United States to such demand.

Resolved, That when the Congress of the United States shall refuse to pass such laws to prohibit the circulation through the U. S. mails of such incendiary matter, that we recommend to the slave States respectively, to pass laws making it highly penal for any Post Master to deliver within their respective limits such stuff.

Resolved, That we sincerely and cordially approve the high minded and patriotic views of the Post Master General in relation to this subject, as also those of Samuel L. Gouverneur, Post Master of New York.

Resolved, That we sincerely sympathise with the daughters of Arthur Tappan, whose lady-like and high-minded disapprobation of their father's amalgamation principles, deserves the universal praise of all decent people, and we tender them the best spirit of Southern chivalry.

Resolved, That Daniel O'Connell, a member of the British Parliament, deserves the contempt and indignation of every true hearted American, for his abuse of President Washington as a slave holder, and consequently, Presidents Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and Jackson.

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be tendered to M. M. Noah, Editor of the N. Y. Evening Star, for his uniform, steady, and able manner in which he has advocated the Southern slave rights.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the chairman and secretaries, and forwarded to the President of the United States, the Post Master General, the Speakers of both Houses of Congress, and to each of the Governors of the several States and Territories in the Union.

The following resolution was offered by the Rev. Edward Walker, and adopted.

Resolved, That whereas, the Abolitionist of the North, in their "declaration of sentiment," which they force upon the South, say: "WE WILL ENLIST THE PULPIT," &c. that such interference with the holy purpose of God's Church and the sacred character of the Pulpit, is unbecoming all good people. and that the Pastors of the different churches ought to renounce such an attempt.

The following resolution was offered by William Walker, Esq. and adopted.

Resolved, That should the people of the North continue to let this abomination exist among them, we recommend to the Southern Planters and Merchants in general, to ship the products of their "slave labor" and buy their goods exclusively of Southern Ports..

The following resolutions were offered by Arthur Macon, Esq. and adopted.

Resolved, That such is our pity, scorn and contempt of Arthur Tappan and his coadjutors, we can neither think, speak nor write of them with any thing like decent forbearance; that we heartily approve of the conduct of the citizens of New Orleans, Charleston, S. C. Macon, Geo. and elsewhere, in offering a premium for said Tappan, and we will be pleased to pay a pro-rato amount for his delivery.

Resolved that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Tallahassee Floridian, Evening Star, Washington Globe, and Telegraph, Richmond Enquirer and Whig, Virginia Expositor, Raleigh Star, Charleston Mercury, Nashville Republican, N. O. Bulletin, the Mississippian, and all other papers in the United States be requested to do the same.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Meeting is due to the Chairman for the dignified and patriotic discharge of his duties.

N. W. WALKER, Chair'n.

WM. C. CAMPBELL } Secretaries
JOHN GAVIN }